

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Circuit information supplied in an encrypted state (supplied circuit information) is decrypted by a supplied circuit information decrypting section and then encrypted by a stored circuit information encrypting section, to be stored in a storage section as stored circuit information. The stored circuit information is decrypted by a stored circuit information/intermediate data decrypting section and is input to a simulator engine, thereby performing a simulation. Intermediate data generated during the simulation is encrypted by an intermediate data encrypting section, stored in the storage section, decrypted also by the stored circuit information/intermediate data decrypting section, and then input to the simulator engine. In this manner, the simulation is easily performed, while enhancing the confidentiality of the circuit information.